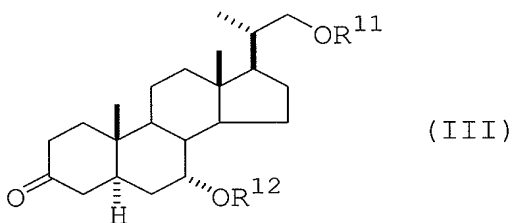


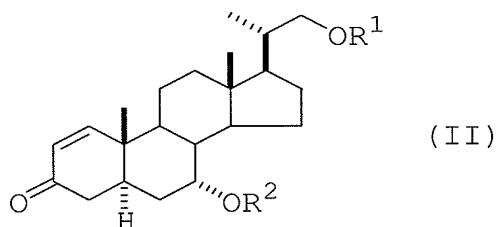
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

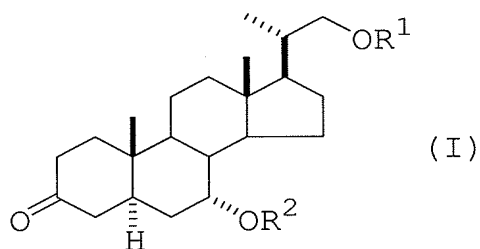
1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III):



wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, which comprises selectively ~~reducing~~ hydrogenating with a transition metal catalyst a carbon-carbon double bond of a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (II):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, in a mixture of a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above, and the 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the above formula (II).

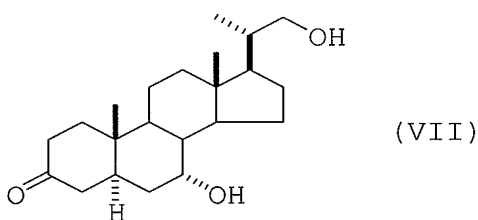
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^{12} are hydrogen atoms.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tert-butyltrimethylsilyl groups.

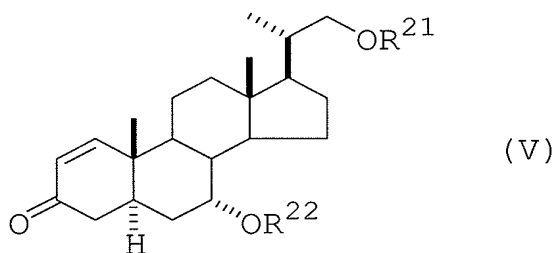
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are hydrogen atoms.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing (20S)-7 α ,21-dihydroxy-20-methyl-5 α -pregn-3-one represented by the formula (VII):

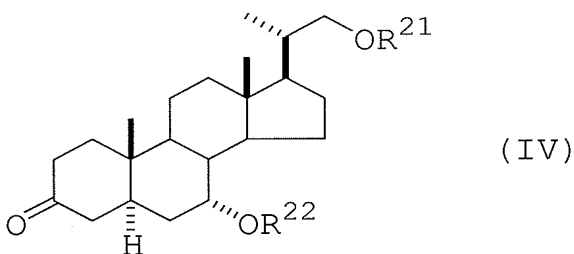


which comprises

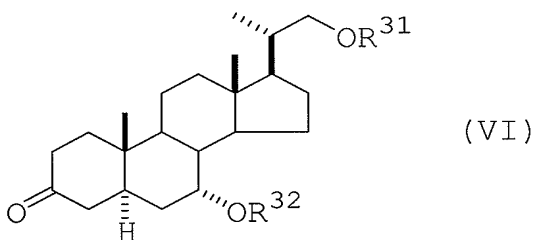
(a) selectively ~~reducing~~ hydrogenating with a transition metal catalyst a carbon-carbon double bond of a 5 α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (V):



wherein R^{21} is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^{22} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, in a mixture of a 5 α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (IV):



wherein R^{21} and R^{22} are as defined above, and the 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the above formula (V) to give a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (VI):



wherein R^{31} is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^{32} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group; and

(b) eliminating the hydroxyl-protecting groups of the 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the above formula (VI) obtained by the aforementioned step.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein R^{22} and R^{32} are hydrogen atoms.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein R^{21} and R^{31} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein R^{21} and R^{31} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.